

# Miscellaneous Notes

## 1. A NOTE ON THE HOOLOCK

Village Chanki is half way between Moryani, the road-head for Jore-hut (Assam) and Mokok Chung in Nagaland. It was about 8 a.m. when we stopped at Chanki, near a way-side tea stall for a cup of tea. As we were having tea, the loud call of Hoolocks came floating down the valley. There was a pattern in the call, first a single call would be heard and then more Hoolocks join in the chorus and the calls grow intense until they reach a crescendo and stop. The troupe was quite close to the main road and therefore, within 20 minutes walking distance. I was able to get fairly close to the spot where the apes were. They were all in the higher branches distributed among three trees at the bottom of the valley. Taking a slightly elevated position on the other side, I was able to watch them comfortably with field glasses.

The female Hoolock spotted me and the whole troupe moved further up. The calling stopped. Two males were engaged in a sort of game chasing each other. They were using their legs with such dexterity that it looked as if they were moving with four limbs like some giant spider. The female was greyish brown and male jet black. Though I could spot the two Hoolocks swinging through the branches, I did not have the occasion to observe their brachiation.

Back in Shillong where I was stationed at the time, I began to enquire about the distribution of this Hoolock. In Meghalaya itself, they have been spotted at Bagmara in Garo hills, Lailad near Nongpoh and Nia Bangla in Kasi hills. The Kasis of Meghalaya referred to this ape as 'Huleng' which I gathered is an onomatopoeic name.

B 49, 9TH CROSS,  
SASTRI NAGAR,  
MADRAS 600 020,  
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S. THEODORE BASKARAN

## 2. URINE OF BATS AS MEANS OF OFFENCE

Dr. J. L. Harrison in an interesting note (*J. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc.* 56(1):125, 1959) mentioned that flying individuals of an unidentified species of horse-shoe bat in Malaya gave out squirts of urine well directed towards the intruder and pointed out the possible importance of this habit in the spread of leptospirosis, an infectious disease of